

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 692

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sandie Hodges,
Executive Director of Blount Health Educators,
Inc., for meritorious service to the citizens of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Sandie Hodges, who has served with acumen and alacrity as the Executive Director of Blount Health Educators, Inc., a non-profit Blount County organization that espouses sexual abstinence until marriage; and

WHEREAS, Sandie Hodges has rendered sterling service at the helm of Blount Health Educators, Inc., which has compiled a remarkable history of assistance to the county's young people during its nearly ten years in operation; and

WHEREAS, the program's sexual abstinence until marriage message was presented under the direction of Ms. Hodges by well-trained volunteers to nearly 5,000 students annually in the seventh through ninth grades of the Blount County, City of Maryville, and City of Alcoa LEAs; the persuasive program was integrated into the Family Life Curriculum in these school systems; and

WHEREAS, fact-based and medically-sound, the program showed the importance of remaining sexually abstinent until marriage in order to prevent unwanted teen pregnancies, teen abortions, teen sexually transmitted diseases, and long-lasting effects of guilt from teen sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to the profound effectiveness of the program, the teen pregnancy rate in Blount County has dramatically decreased since the start of the curriculum in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the teen pregnancy rate in Blount County was near the top of all Tennessee counties; today, the rate in Blount County is near the bottom of all Tennessee counties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to teaching abstinence until marriage, the program, which was absorbed into Knox County's Just Wait program in December of 2007, stressed building self esteem and self-worth, while accentuating the need to wait for true love and commitment in marriage; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as Executive Director of the Blount Health Educators, Inc., Sandie Hodges has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Sandie Hodges epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sandie Hodges for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sandie Hodges for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee as Executive Director of the Blount Health Educators, Inc. and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.